

**From:** [Sarna Salzman](#)  
**To:** [Thompson, Carol \(MSHDA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Jonathan Stimson](#); [Yarrow Brown](#)  
**Subject:** Improving Rural Housing Access  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 11:04:34 AM

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Dear Mr. Benson,

I'm writing to express support for the the QAP changes recommended by Housing North in their December 1 letter. The lack of affordable housing in northwest lower Michigan has reached crisis proportions.

As an employer, I know first-hand the difficulty of losing employee and intern candidates because they can't afford to live here.

As a community member and the Board Treasurer of Homestretch, a local nonprofit housing developer, I am keenly aware of the scope of the difficulties working families are having, moving out of the area and putting additional pressure on local businesses and school budgets. More than 50% of the residents in our five county area are considered "overburdened" in housing and transportation costs.

The changes Housing North has recommended will make it easier to create housing options for all people in our community, and will begin to help rectify the housing crisis in rural communities like ours.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Sarna

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**"We believe, based on analysis and data, that economic regeneration, ecological regeneration, social regeneration, and the regeneration of the atmosphere are identical." Paul Hawken, editor *Drawdown: the Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming***